



## Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

January 13, 2006

**TO:** Superintendent

**CC:** Homeless Coordinator

**FROM:** Craig Rector, Director  
Federal Discretionary Grants

**SUBJECT:** Hurricane Relief Program for Homeless & Displaced Students

The Hurricane Education Recovery Act was recently signed into law. The legislation authorizes three new grant programs to assist schools in meeting the educational needs of students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and in helping schools closed as a result of the hurricanes to reopen as quickly and effectively as possible. Two of these new programs will impact our state. One is Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students which will provide assistance to local education agencies for the cost of educating students who were displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita during the school year 2005-2006. The other program is Assistance for Homeless Youths which will provide a separate source of funding to address the needs of homeless students displaced by the hurricanes.

The application process has a very tight timeline, as required by the law. Districts will need to submit the necessary application to our office no later than January 26, 2006. In order to receive funding, you must meet this deadline. At this time we are only collecting data on the following:

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS (INCLUDING CHARTER SCHOOLS):** Total number of displaced students:  
(1) enrolled in the elementary and secondary schools (including charter schools) of the school district, and  
(2) who are not receiving special education and related services consistent with IDEA

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS (INCLUDING CHARTER SCHOOLS):** Total number of displaced students:  
(1) enrolled in the elementary and secondary schools (including charter schools) of the school district, and  
(2) who are receiving special education and related services consistent with IDEA

Districts will report total numbers of displaced students in the school district by category. Use whole numbers only. Do not include any numbers of students in more than one category. For each quarter, report the number of displaced students as of the reporting date for that quarter. The count dates for each quarter to identify eligible displaced students are: September 28, 2005, November 21, 2005, January 25, 2006, and March 22, 2006.

Displaced student are those students who:

- a. On August 22, 2005, resided in, and were enrolled or were eligible to be enrolled in a school in an area for which the Federal Government later declared a major disaster related to Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita; and
- b. As a result of their displacement by the storm, are enrolled in different schools on a date on which an enrollment count is taken for the purpose of this program.

Note that the definition includes students who, on the date a count is taken, are enrolled in your school because of the impact of one of the hurricanes and are not in their original school. This would include those students who meet the above definition who have now found permanent housing in your district.

It is anticipated that school districts will receive payments up to \$6,000 per student who is not receiving special education and related services consistent with IDEA, if that student remained in your district for all four quarters. It is anticipated that school districts will receive payments up to \$7,500 per student who would be receiving special education and related services consistent with IDEA, if that student remained in your district for all four quarters. These amounts are estimates and could change due to the number of students served and the Federal appropriation.

School districts may use program funds to provide instructional opportunities for displaced students and for expenses the recipient incurs in serving displaced students. Examples of allowable expenses include;

- a. paying personnel, including teacher aides, in schools enrolling displaced students;
- b. identifying and acquiring curricular material and classroom supplies;
- c. acquiring or leasing mobile educational units or leasing sites and spaces (to the extent that those costs are not met by FEMA);
- d. providing basic instructional services for displaced students, including tutoring, mentoring, or academic counseling;
- e. paying reasonable transportation costs;
- f. providing health and counseling services; and
- g. providing education and support services.

Funds received under this section shall not be used for construction or major renovation of schools. Payments for this program will be made quarterly. All funds received under this program must be obligated by July 31, 2006, and the obligation must be liquidated by October 27, 2006. Schools must maintain adequate written records to support the amount of payments that are received and the allowable expenditures that are made under the program for this fiscal year. At a minimum, recipients must keep auditable records documenting the enrollments of displaced children who they claimed as the basis for receiving payments and evidence that the children claimed met the definition of a displaced student. On request, any recipient must make its records available to the Department for the purpose of examination or audit.

The application form, legislation, and other pertinent information can be found on the following website <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/discretionarygrants/hurricanereliefprogram/index.html>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (573) 526-1594 or Kim Oligschlaeger at (573) 522-8763.